The Strange
MONSTER
OR,
True News from
NOTTINGHAM-SHIRE

Of a Strange Monſter born at *Graſly* in *Nottingham-ſhire*, three miles from *Nottingham*, with a relation of his ſtrange and wonderful ſhape, the time his Mother was in Travail with him, with ſeveral other things of note.

TOGETHER

With a brief Relation of ſeveral Monſtrous and Prodigious births which happened heretofore in this our Nation.

Licenſed accordording to Order.

Printed by *Peter Lillierap* living in *Clerkenwell-Cloſe*, 1668.

THE STRANGE

MONSTER

OR

News from Nottingham-ſhire.

THat Monſters and Prodigious births have been frequent in each Age none that are wiſe will deny though ſome are ſuch nullifidians as not to believe any thing which they do not ſee with their own eyes, and ſuch perſons we may perceive are the moſt eaſy to be deceived in any thing they ſee which is above their vulger apprehenſion; thus when they ſee thoſe whom we call Juglers or *Hocus Pocus* do rare feats by ſlight of hand, they preſently count it *Witch-craft* or *conjuration*, nor can they by any Arguments be beaten out of their opinion; like the ſilly *Indians* who when they had heard ſome *Europians* to play on Bag-pipes, would not be perſwaded but that they were living Creatures, nay though

they were permitted to touch and handle them; others wonder as much at things which come by the course of Nature, as the change of the Moon, the Tides, &c. these are thus set forth by the Poet,

The vulgar sort too much unconstant be
Nothing seems strange to them but constancy.

This which we are about to relate is a thing well known for truth and attested by several persons of quality, and which in short, (that I may not detain you too long with a preludium) was as followeth.

At a place called *Crasly* in *Nottingham-shire*, three miles from the Town of *Nottingham*, about the latter end of *April* last, this present year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight. A certain woman an inhabitant of that place fell in Travail, and after three days space of time, (in which interim she indured great torments and excessive pangs not to be utter'd, and can only be expressed by imagination) at last she was delivered of a most strange and uncouth Monster, to the great admiration and astonishment of all the beholders then present; for it was quite different from all other Children, especially in these six several respects.

1. First its head was long and sharp, proportioned after the fashion of a Sugar loaf, quite contrary to other peoples heads which are round and circular, except a sort of people we read of who live next to the *Persian* Gulph which people when their Children are very young bind their

their heads ſtrait with ſplinters, and ſo continuing it by degrees make it ſo mallable that it grows in the ſhape of a Sugar-loaf, which they take to be a very great grace unto them, and an adding much to the perfection of their beauty.

2. In the Second place it had no Noſe at all, which all people account a comely Noſe to be the greateſt ornament to the face, and ſo by the rules of contraryes the want thereof muſt needs be the greateſt deformity.

3. The third circumſtance wherein it was remarkable, was that it had eyes like a fiſh, nothing comparable to thoſe of other Children.

4 It had eight fingers upon each hand, but that which was moſt admirable, was that each finger was interwoven to the other with plates of fleſh, and grew together like the feet of a Goole.

5. It had two Ears long and ponderous, hanging down like to the Ears of a Hound.

6. And Laſtly, all along down the Back of it was long black hair quite contrary to humane Nature.

The birth of this Child was a great aſtoniſhment to all the Women there preſent, who beheld the ſame with much admiration, amongſt others then preſent was the Wife of one Mr. *J.* a ſilk ſtocking Weaver of the ſame Town, who related all the circumſtances thereof to her Husband, which he communicated to ſome of his friends in *London*, with a deſire the ſame ſhould be committed to the Preſs.

Now

Now that ſuch like things have been frequent in former Ages, we could inſtance in ſeveral examples, how that the womb hath been fruitful of prodigious births, as well as ſuch which have been the ordinary production of nature.

To begin firſt with *Margaret* ſiſter to *Floris* the fourth Earl of *Flanders*, this Lady had three hundred ſixty five Children at one birth, juſt ſo many as there are days in the year; they were about the bigneſs of Mice, being half Males, half Females, and the odde one an Hermophrodite; They were Chriſtned by the Biſhop of that place in two Baſons, the males named *John*, the females *Elizabeth*, the Baſons are ſtill hanged up in the Church as a teſtimonial to poſterity of the truth of the buſineſs.

But we ſhall not need to inſtance Forraign Countries our own Iſland can furniſh us with plentiful examples of the ſame nature, of which we ſhall relate ſome few, as we finde them recorded in our Engliſh Chronicles

In the time of King *John*, at *Maidſtone* in *Kent* a certain Monſter was born, which Monſter had a head like an Ars, a belly like a man, and all other parts much differing from any other Creature.

In King *Henry* the thirds time a Child was born in the Iſle of Wight who at eighteen years old was ſcarce three foot high, and therefore brought to the Queen, who carried him about with her as a monſter in nature.

In

mus decoctus.

TErtio Auguſti inter decimam ac undecimam noctis horam, Mildeltoſtonii in Anglia, natꝰ eſt infans duobus corporibus atque capitibus, quatuor manibus, unico uētre, umbilico, ac aluo ad eiſcienda naturæ excrementa. Ab una parte corporis duob. pedib. iuſta proportione formatis, altera unico pede tantum, ſed ex duobus conflato, ac nouem digitis ornato.

In his time alſo a Childe was born in *Kent* who at two years old cured all diſeaſes, which childe I mention not as a Monſter, but rather as a Miracle in nature.

In the time of King *Henry* the ſixth were very many prodigious births, as you may read in *Stows* Annals, and Sir *Richard Bakers* Chronicle.

Auguſt the third in the ſixth year of the reign of King *Edward* the ſixth at *Middleton Stony* eleven miles from *Oxford* a woman brought forth a Childe which had two perfect bodies from the Navell upwards, the legs for both the bodies grew out at the midſt where the bodies joyned, and had but one iſſue for the excrements of them both; they lived eighteen days and were women Children.

In the third year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, a man Childe was born at *Chicheſter* in *Suſſex*, having Arms and Legs like to an Anatomy, the breaſt and belly monſtrous big, about the neck a great coller of fleſh and skin, growing like the ruffe of a ſhirt.

In the twenty third of her reign, at the Town of *Walſham* in *Suſſex*, a Childe of eleven years old named *William Wibers* lay in a trance for the ſpace of ten days without any ſuſtenance; and at the laſt coming to himſelf, he uttered to the ſtanders by many ſtrange ſpeeches, enveighing againſt pride covetouſneſs, coldneſs of charity and other enormous crimes, which though I report not as of a Monſter, yet may it be recorded for a great wonder.

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Anno

Anno Dom. 1613. The eighth year of the Reign of King *James* on the 17 of *April* in the Parish of *Standish* in *Lancashire*, a Maiden Child was born, having four Legs, four Arms, two Bellies joyned to one Back, one Head with two Faces, the one before, the other behind, like the picture of *Janus*.

We will conclude all with a later example of one here in *London*, who in these late times of Libertism, when the different opinions of Religion made many to be of no Religion, he at that time (seeing such a confusion of sects among those who called themselves Christians) turned Jew, refusing according to the Levitical Law, to taste of any Swines flesh, it pleased God not long after he had a Child born with Hair and Bristles like to a Hog; which wrought so upon him, that he soon after altered his opinion, turned Christian, and (as I hear) is now a great adherer to the Romish perswasion.

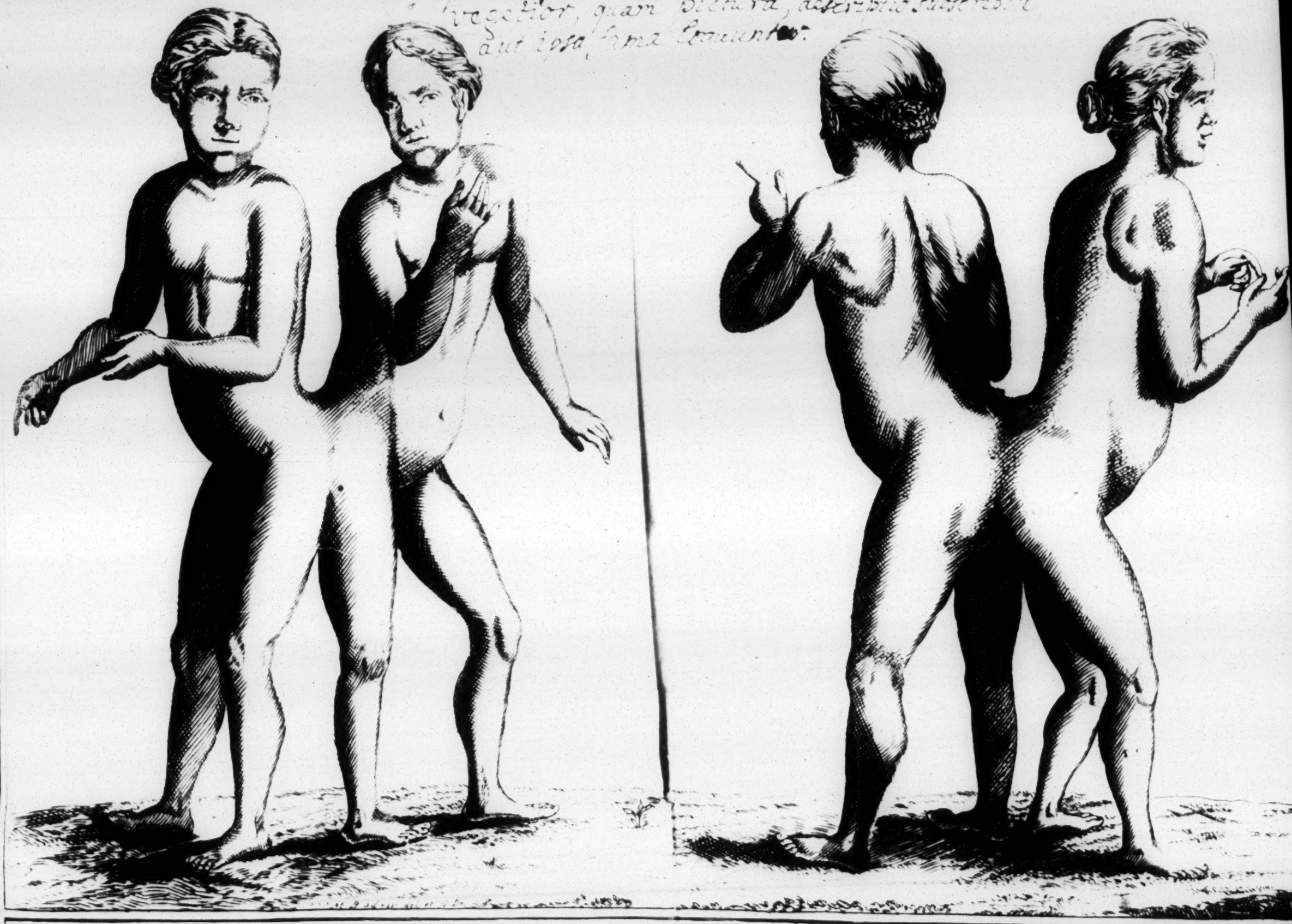
Many other examples could we produce, but these we think may be sufficient for this purpose; I shall only add this, that the Reader will not look with the same eyes (as the Fanaticks do) upon such monstrous births, accounting them Prodigies, and certain Foretellers of great mischiefs infallibly to ensue, since we see that all ages have produced the like or more strange births, but let every one labour to break off his own sins by repentance, and then we shall not need to fear any calamity which such prodigious births may seem to signifie.

FINIS.

vid: p. 80

vid: p. 80

Duas videre gemellas (plurimis ex natas
quarum forma, similitas, elegantior &
integrior, quam pictura, descriptio subsequi
aut ipsa fama poterunt.



Corpora Binarum sic concrevere Sororum
Non nisi Divinâ dissocianda manu.
SEONY Patria est, vicus COMORE conterminus Arci
Qva nunquam Luna paruit Imperio.
Amplexa est ulnis HELENAM Lucina priorem,
Horis deinde trib⁹ nata JUDITHA fuit.

Exitus Urinæ patet unicus, unicus alvo,
Observant numerum cætera membra suum.
Misit ad Ignotos tenuis Fortuna Parentum,
Neu pereat tantæ Fama stupenda rei.
InterIora Latent, negVeVnt abstrVsa VIDerI
eXIgVo totVM CorpVs In ære patet.